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Remarks

This Amendment is responsive to the Office Action of February 23, 2006. Claims 1 and 5-8 are cancelled. Amended claim 2 and original claims 3 and 4 are present for consideration.

There are no issues of patentability with respect to any dependent claim: if claim 2 is not patentable, then claims 3 and 4 are not patentable.

In the first Office Action, claim 2 is not mentioned at all except by inclusion in "claims 1-3". In response to the first Office Action, the subject matter of claim 2 was pointed out: "With respect to claim 2, Pinto drives the flow against the surface prior to entering the channels, whereas claim 2 requires that the exits of the channels drive the fuel against the surface." In response to this, the final rejection indicated on page 5 that "for flowing said fuel against said surface" is intended use, and given no weight.

This is the first time that the applicants have had an opportunity to respond to the allegations of deficiency: the response is amended claim 2, which is deemed to overcome those deficiencies. This is a conforming amendment.

The wording of currently amended claim 2 differs from that of previously amended claims 1 and 2 by having the surface be flat and within the manifold, in order to provide correspondence with the specification.

The term "adjacent" is structural. The last line of claim 2 serves "to precisely define present structural attributes of interrelated component parts of the claimed assembly" and is an acceptable limitation under MPEP 2173.05(g).


The issue which is believed now presented is that, as stated in the prior response, Pinto flows against a surface and then distributes, whereas claim 2 calls for equal distribution followed by flowing against a surface.

Since the prior art does not teach or suggest an equal fuel flow distribution followed by impingement on a manifold surface, reconsideration and allowance of claims 2-4 is respectfully requested.

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Should any part of the foregoing not be persuasive, a phone interview is sincerely requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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